The Mohegan Way

Integrity's Front Line: The Mohegan Tribal Gaming Commission

The most important factor in the success of Mohegan Sun isn't the spectacular environment, the thousands of games, its towering hotel or even its unmatched customer service. It's integrity.

Our customers enjoy the casino experience because regulation and oversight guarantee fairness.

"The people who come to Mohegan Sun have to trust the integrity of our operations, or they won't come," says Mark Brown, Chairman of the Mohegan Tribal Council. The guardian of that trust is the Mohegan Tribal Gaming Commission (MTGC), the arm of tribal government that provides oversight of gaming operations and ensures regulatory integrity.

"Our gaming regulation is far more extensive than you find in Las Vegas," says John Meskill, MTGC Director and former head of the state regulatory body. Long before Mohegan Sun opened its doors, the Tribal Council hired Francis "Bud" Mullen, the former deputy director of the FBI, to create and establish the MTGC and the regulatory framework that exists today. Mullen based the system on that found in Atlantic City, New Jersey – at that time, the world's most stringently regulated gaming environment.

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"We regulate our gaming operations to ensure the highest level of trust – an essential Mohegan value."

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The 44 inspectors who monitor casino operations 24 hours a day, seven days a week are the "front line" of gaming regulation. Many are former law enforcement officials with more than 10 years of experience in casino operations and security. They oversee the movement of cash coming off the tables and out of the slot machines, and audit games and test slot machines to ensure the rules are being followed and the technology is working properly. They also monitor gaming operations using the most sophisticated surveillance technology in the industry.

In addition to the inspectors, a group of state-licensed, highly trained gaming commission investigators pursue any allegations of wrongdoing by patrons, vendors or employees. This group often works closely with casino-based state and tribal police officers to conduct their investigations.

The state works closely with the MTGC in many areas to provide another layer of oversight and ensure the integrity of casino operations. All casino employees involved in gaming operations are licensed by the state's Division of Special Revenue, which conducts background checks before the employees begin to work. The MTGC also licenses all employees, including those in non-gaming positions, and conducts appropriate background checks as well.

Much of the state's regulatory involvement pertains to the casino's slot operations – which makes sense, since the state receives 25% of all slot revenues. The Division of Special Revenue (DOSR) reviews and approves the introduction of new games on the casino floor, before they go into operation. On-site Division of Special Revenue representatives act as liaison officers, monitoring slots operations and conducting periodic audits. Finally, the DOSR reviews and approves all gaming regulatory and policy changes.

The third layer of regulatory oversight is at the federal level. The National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC) defines the minimum internal control standards to be followed in all Indian casinos. Mohegan Sun's standards meet or exceed all NIGC standards. The NIGC, a federal agency of the Executive Branch, conducts periodic audits of Mohegan gaming operations.

"The Mohegan Tribe has invested heavily in technology, manpower and expertise to ensure the utmost integrity in our gaming operations," said Chairman Brown, a former police officer. "Our customers can rest assured that anyone trying to beat or cheat the system will be apprehended, and prosecuted to the full extent of the law."

For more information about the Mohegan Way,
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New Tougher Law Sends Message "If you're not old enough to drink or play, don't try."

The Connecticut State Legislature passed a new law in its last session that imposes tougher punishments on people under 21 who try to gamble or drink at one of the state's Indian casinos.

As of October 1, 2003, anyone under 21 caught drinking or gaming at Mohegan Sun or Foxwoods is subject to a significant cash fine and up to 30 days in jail.

Prior to passage of this law, young people caught breaking the rules could only be escorted off the reservations, not turned over to the police for arrest and punishment. The Mohegan Tribe and management of Mohegan Sun, unhappy with this loophole that allowed a small group of repeat offenders to return again and again, petitioned the Legislature to enact a law that put teeth into enforcement efforts.

Now that the Legislature has acted, the Tribe has launched a public service campaign to inform people under 21 of the tough new law, and of the potential harm arrest can do to their reputations, their families and their lives. This campaign was launched on radio and in newspapers throughout Connecticut on October 1st.

Molly Glennan
"Success begets success."
Soccer 1234 Honor Society 234
Thx M&D. Berkeley get ready!
One decision can change all your plans forever. Underage drinking and gambling in a Connecticut casino is against the law. Break that law, and you will get arrested, fined, and could be sent to jail for up to 30 days.
A message from MOHEGAN SUN.

An advertisement from the Mohegan campaign to educate young people about the strict new law against underage gaming and drinking at Indian casinos.

Contributing to Connecticut

The Mohegan Tribe and Connecticut's Native American Casinos continue to be Connecticut's largest source of revenue other than the federal government.

Last year, the Mohegan Tribe contributed over $190 million to the State of Connecticut. As part of their compact with the state, Native American Tribes share 25% of their slot machine revenues with Connecticut's state government. This past year, the Tribes provided more than $387 million, funds that were used to help balance the state budget and pay for vital state services. A portion of these resources are also transferred to all of Connecticut's cities and towns to help pay for local services.

In addition, the Tribes pay for all of the state's expenses related to oversight of the casinos including police coverage, liquor control and special revenue services. Last year, the Mohegan Tribe reimbursed the state for $2.2 million for state police services and nearly $1.6 million for the work of the Division of Special Revenue and Consumer Protection.

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